

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00876 260910Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07
/093 W

-----261346Z 051669 /56

R 260820Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8178
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0876

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS LA VN TH
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESENCE IN VIENTIANE AND
SAYABOURY REGION

REF: A VIENTIANE 0797, B VIENTIANE 0798, C VINETIANE
0827, D VIENTIANE 0793 (ALL NOTAL)

1. TWO LAO SOURCES OF GENERALLY GOOD RELIABILITY TOLD
EMBOFF MAY 16 AND MAY 25 THAT A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF
VIETNAMESE TROOPS IS LOCATED NEAR NAD SOUGN (VICTF3304)
APPROXIMATELY TWENTY KILOMETERS FROM VIENTIANE. THE
SOURCES, QUOTING RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF HOUE
KHOUA LOCATED ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS FROM DAN SOUNG,
SAID THAT THE SITE WAS HEADQUARTERS FOR VIETNAMESE
TROOPS IN THE VIENTIANE PROVINCE REGION. ONE OF THE
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00876 260910Z

TWO SOURCES SAID THAT THERE WERE ANTI-AIRCRAFT
EMPLACEMENTS AND A LARGE RICE WAREHOUSE AT DAN SOUNG.
BOTH SOURCES SAID THAT HOUE KHOUA VILLAGERS CLAIMED
THAT THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO APPROACH DAN SOUNG.

2. A THAI DIPLOMAT TOLD EMBOFF MAY 18 THAT VIETNAMESE
AND LAO CADRE ARE CURRENTLY OPERATING A TRAINING

CENTER FOR CPT TROOPS IN SAYABOURY (POSSIBLY AT MUONG BOTENE, REF A). THE DIPLOMAT SAID THAT THE CENTER OFFERS MILITARY AND POLITICAL TRAINING TO 100 MAN CYCLES (DURATION OF CYCLE UNKNOWN). HE SAID THAT KHAISENG SUKSAI IS LOCATED AT THIS SITE.

3. A DRIVER FOR THE LAO PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY REPORTEDLY TOLD A LAO SOURCE THAT VIETNAMESE TROOPS HAVE ESTABLISHED 20-50 MAN CAMPS ALONG ROUTE 13 EAST OF VIENTIANE AT LEAST AS FAR AS KILOMETER 40. THESE CAMPS ARE REPORTEDLY WITHIN SIGHT OF THE ROAD.

4. A LAO WELDER DISPATCHED TO ASSIST IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGE BARGE-FERRY AT THE BAN HAI FERRY MAY 21-22 (WHERE ROUTE 13 CROSSES THE NAM NGUM) REPORTEDLY WORKED WITH APPROXIMATELY SIXTY VIETNAMESE TROOPS WHO WERE HELPING TO CONSTRUCT THE CRAFT AND ITS DOCKING FACILITIES.

5. A WESTERN BUSINESSMAN IN VIENTIANE TOLD EMBOFF THAT LAO BUSINESS CONTACTS IN SAYABOURY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT BY THE END OF APRIL LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS HAD MOVED INTO SAYABOURY PROVINCE NEAR MUONG SAYABOURY. THE SAME SOURCE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THAI STUDENTS WHO HAD FLED THAILAND AFTER THE OCTOBER 6, 1976 CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN THAILAND WERE REGULARLY SEEN IN THE STREETS OF MUONG SAYABOURY.

6. PARTICIPANTS IN LOCAL SEMINARS CONTINUE TO REPEAT
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PAGE 03 VIENTI 00876 260910Z

EARLIER REPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE SEEKING TO ASSURE THE LAO PEOPLE THAT THE ARRIVAL OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN THE VIENTIANE REGION IS NOT A CAUSE FOR ALARM AND THAT PAVN TROOPS HAVE COME ONLY TO SUPPLY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (REF B).
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